

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 1/26/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Council Members present via phone/video: Hans Smith
Mark Easton
Alan Caswell
Hannah Cordes
Aaron Studen

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Cordes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if any public comment had been received prior to the meeting. They both verified that none had been received.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she continues to attend a lot of different meetings throughout the week. She said that last night's Public Works Open House was a great presentation of all of the upcoming projects the Town as scheduled for the year. She thanked Director Denham for his hard work and professionalism in conducting the meeting. She said that she had staff send out the local vaccination clinic schedule to all Council members to keep everyone informed. She said to please reach out to her if anyone has any questions as she is in regular communication with Okanogan County Public Health and Emergency Management.

Staff Reports:

Council Member Easton asked Director Denham if he knows how many people attended the open house last night. Denham responded that he counted about 24 which included presenters and staff. Council Member Caswell thanked Director Denham for hosting the meeting and is excited for the projects taking place.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton attended the recent TERC Meeting where they viewed the presentation by Methow Arts and artist Hannah Viano for the Art Placement in support of Wayfinding. He said the artwork and artist were approved by TERC.

He also attended the MV Climate Action Committee meeting where they discussed setting up the blueprints in each category for the plan.

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting where they continue to search for a Board President. He said that VP Don Linnertz is currently filling the role until they can find a replacement. He said they decided to delay the Visitor Information Center request for proposals due to Covid. They also renewed the contract for Jamie Petitto to remain the Marketing Director. He said that the Cascade Loop is putting together images of Twisp that Chamber Members will have access to use in their advertising. They also reported that the “What local looks like” campaign was a success and would like to do another campaign like that in the future.

Mayor Ing-Moody attended the Watershed Council meeting where three primary issues were discussed. She said that a bill dropped in the house to not allow out of basin transfers of water. Greg Knot had shared that he will be working on drafting a letter in support of the bill. Mayor Ing-Moody shared that she would need a little more information on how the letter will read before support could be given. She is planning to meet with Mary McCrea and Representative Goehner for further discussion on the details of the bill. The second item discussed by the Council centered around questions of Commissioner Hover about water availability for subdivisions in the County as a result of the Washington State Attorney General’s determination defining single domestic use to not include subdivisions in the county. The final item discussed pertained to discussions around the filling of the vacant position number 4 and the one applicant who filed, Alyssa Jumars. She shared that though action was taken by the Watershed Council but it does also require Town Council approval for the Council appointments and said that it will be on the next council agenda for their consideration. Council Member Smith suggested requesting the candidates come to the next meeting to introduce themselves and share their interest in serving prior to Council approval.

Council Member Caswell attended the Planning Commission meeting and said that much of the discussion pertained to updating the Administrative Procedures Code. He said they also spoke about the Joe Marver/Twisp River Suites’ Planned Development modification that has been submitted to the town. He also said the Planning Commission is looking forward to working on the sign code next.

Council Member Cordes attended the Friends of the Pool Meeting. She said that Ray Johnston is serving in an advisory position with the UW Grad students and they will not be available until the Spring of 2022 to assist with a design. She said otherwise they are moving forward with a feasibility study. They are also interested in getting together with the Biochar program to see if it would work together with the pool. The FOP is also hoping to raise funding to be able to open the pool this summer as Covid allows.

Council Member Studen attended the recent TranGo meeting. He said that things have been quiet with Covid still affecting things but wanted to update everyone on something new. He said they have been working on writing a job description to hire a CFO/Human Resources Coordinator. He said that they looked into the amount they have been paying a 3rd party accountant and realized that a more efficient use of funds would be to hire someone in house to do the Accounting and Human Resources. He said it will be a couple of months before the position becomes available and then it will take time for a transfer of finances from the accountant to TranGo.

Presentation: Creative District Placemaking Art in Support of Wayfinding Signage – Amanda Jackson Mott, Methow Arts Alliance:

Amanda Jackson Mott along with artist Hannah Viano gave a presentation of the Placemaking Art Project that the Creative District has received a \$26,416.66 grant for. The proposal is to construct 4 - 3’x6’ steel art panels designed by Viano to be placed in the Creative District and one vinyl that will go on a bus stop shelter. Jackson Mott said they are moveable connector pieces that will help connect and complement Wayfinding signs.

Police Chief Paul Budrow asked if they have thought about adding a clear coat on the artwork so that should the pieces get tagged by graffiti, it will help minimize the damage. They indicated that they will remember to take care of that.

Council Member Easton wanted to thank Methow Arts for their work in securing the grant and the artist for the artwork designs. He stated his belief that this project has morphed from the original MOU in place with the town for the specific grant. He doesn't look at these pieces of art as connectors, he views them simply as four pieces of public art. He said that since there is not currently a Wayfinding signage program with the Town, his concern is that he doesn't want to be boxed in to have to use that same style of artwork to create the wayfinding signs. He said he doesn't understand why there is always a request for a decision at the same time of a presentation without giving more time for consideration or public input.

Council Member Smith said that while he appreciates the presentation, he doesn't understand what the Council is taking action on tonight. He said he generally likes to have time to review material before being asked to approve something in the same meeting.

Mayor Ing-Moody explained that action is needed from Council to accept the artwork and the artist so that the project can move forward within the proposed timeframe in order to complete the project and expend all grant funds available by June 30.

Council Member Smith questioned why it is up to Council to decide this.

Mayor Ing-Moody reminded the Council that the MOU requires that the designs be brought before Council because that was what Council had asked to be put in the MOU upon acceptance of the agreement.

Council Member Smith asked if the grantor has been approached with the design and if they have approved the change in direction from the original wayfinding concept.

Jackson Mott said she already has approval from the grantor for this type of artwork. She shared that other communities have had similar and fewer art installations for the same amount of funds. Jackson Mott stated that a quick response is needed as the grant itself was issued quickly which only provided a few months for the project to be completed in June.

Council Member Smith explained that he appreciates the artist's work and was just trying to cover all the bases with his questions. He reiterated that it is not desirable to expect a rushed answer in the same meeting as the Council is receiving it as a presentation for the first time and would like more time for consideration in the future. He thinks it is important for the community to have input as has been done in the past.

Council Member Easton said he agrees with Council Member Smith and feels there has not been the opportunity for public input of this project like other town projects. He feels that he is making a decision for the citizens of the town without giving them a chance to voice an opinion. He asked the artist if this was the final design. He said that in the MOU it clearly states that Methow Arts will "present final designs to the Town of Twisp and Stakeholder group for consideration and approval." He said that it was discussed at TERC that the town will install the art, maintain the art, and own the art.

Amanda Jackson Mott said that the artist is looking for approval to move forward with creating the final designs.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that since the MOU requires the Council to approve “final designs” then it should be brought back to Council for the final approval once the designs are ready.

Hannah Viano stated that she should have the final designs ready by the end of February.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the TERC’s recommendation for the conceptual designs of artwork as presented to enable Viano to begin work. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Twisp Airport Advisory Board Position Appointments:

Council Member Smith moved to approve positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of the Twisp Airport Advisory Board appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Parks and Recreation Commission Position Appointments:

Council Member Smith moved to approve positions 1, 3, 4 of the Parks and Recreation Commission appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Council Member Eaton moved to approve position 2 of the Parks and Recreation Commission appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed with Council Member Smith abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Planning Commission Position Appointments:

Council Member Caswell moved to approve positions 1, 2, 4, 5 of the Planning Commission appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Sewer System Improvements Project Contract - Varela:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated he is waiting for the final review from each agency, but that the attorney has reviewed the contract.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Sewer System Improvements Project Contract with Varela pending the agencies’ final review. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Resolution # 21-675 Fee Schedule – Public Records Request Fees:

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #21-674 Fee Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Draft Chapter 14.05 TMC – Administrative Procedures for Permitting and Zoning:

Council Member Smith applauded the commission’s work. He said from what he understood most of the changes that were made were consistent with council feedback that was given to the Planning Commission. He said he was looking for elements of consistency with the development standards manual and the code. He is surprised that he has not seen an update to the development standards yet. He would like to submit his edits to the town clerk to have Planning Commission review the proposed changes at their next meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes 12/22/20, 1/12/21

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Town Council. The following voucher/checks are approved for payment by a majority vote on this 26th of January 2021.

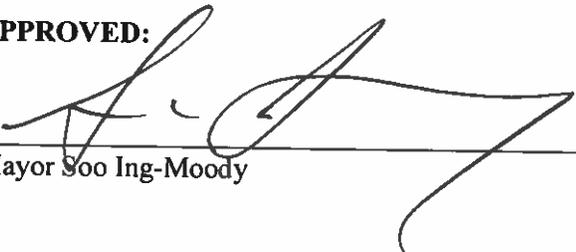
Payroll	EFT# 143-149, 182	8616.00	1/15/2021
Accounts Payable	EFT # 221	683.00	1/26/2021
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35958	2520.00	12/29/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35959 -35981	89158.93	1/26/2021

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer